

PATENT

C7564(V) Y2-0548-UNI

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Customer Number:

RÉNALD A. KOATZ ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S) REGISTRATION NO. 31,774

000201

Attorney Docket No.:

C7564(V)

Applicant:

Ashcroft et al.

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For:

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Group:

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Examiner:

Alexander Markoff

Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

January 25, 2006

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT WITH COMMENTS RESPONSIVE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to any action on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.